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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
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AND
VENOM
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AUTHORITY
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1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
ALSO:
KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ VENOM..... 1

CLAWS AND WEBS
Part 6 of 6
"NIGHTMARE'S END"

Just when it seemed that Wolverine and Venom had defeated Nightmare, they realized they had been used as his pawns all along. Now, can their last-ditch assault put an end to the chaos of Nightmare?

Writer — HOWARD MACKIE
Artist — SAM KIETH
Letterers — BABCOCK/SHARPE
Colorist —MIKE THOMAS

pg.

KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON 9

"SEEDS OF WINTER"

CROWN–the reincarnation of King Arthur; ALBION–the reincarnation of Merlin; GRACE–the reincarnation of Morgause; and UNION JACK–together, they form the modern-day version of the Knights of the Round Table. But can their combined might prevent an ancient evil from bringing death to their land?

Writer — SKIP DIETZ
Penciler — HOANG NGUYEN
Inker – DON HUDSON
Letterer — DAVE SHARPE
Colorist — SARRA MOSSOF

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Before we begin with the letters, we must correct a grave error committed in the credits of MCP #118. In that issue, the Giant-Man story was colored by Sarra Mossoff, not John Kalisz. We're sorry for the mistake, Sarra—so, uh, can you pull Mark Powers in from the window now?

Dear Terry,

As I expected, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #117 was an excellent issue.

1) Wolverine/Venom: While overly commercial team-ups like this sometimes don't contain much quality, I'm happy to say that this new story has a lot of good points. Best of all is the art. Since it may be Sam Kieth's last Wolvie story in a while, we'd better cherish this stuff while we can. And, I must say it's better than ever! As for Mackie's story, it was interesting, but he should lay off Nightmare! Still, this story gets a resounding A+. Kudos, too, to colorist Mike Thomas.

2) Giant -Man: This story is well-paced, and I see it mainly as a showcase for Ron Wilson's artwork. Yet, that isn't to belittle Dwayne McDuffie's story. It is also interesting to see Giant-Man established as a character again. Maybe he can join Avengers West Coast. Overall grade: A.

3) Ghost Rider/Iron Fist: This story is apparently dragging on a little, but it's nice to see the art remain steady. I'm getting tired of various demons chasing Flame-Head in every issue of MCP—Doc Ock vs. Ghost Rider might be more interesting at this point. Still, Cavalieri's script was good, and McManus did a fine job on the art, far surpassing his "I, Thanos" story. Overall grade: B.

4) Ravage 2099: Absolutely fantastic! What can I say that I haven't said in my letter to RAVAGE itself? Stan Lee wrote in his own inimitable fashion, and made the characters (Ravage, Deathstryk) truly fascinating. Paul Ryan and Keith Williams also did a superb art job. Overall grade: Whadda you think? A+!

5) Wolvie Cover: An easy A+.

6) Ghost Rider Cover: B-.

Well, there you go. I guess this ish got a composite score of an A, or an A-. Not bad, eh?

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083

No, not bad at all, Joey–but we're still shooting for an A+.

Dear Terry and Mark,

Sam Kieth's return to these pages is long past due. His style is so fresh and endearing; cartoonish, but so richly textured. His visuals are possessed of a certain starkness that the colorist appears to understand perfectly. Mr. Thomas seems to know just when a background should be left uncolored. Thanks, Mike!

When I saw the opening sequence, my first thought was: "Now here's a Yes album cover I must have missed!" Definite Roger Dean influences here.

A friend pointed out to me that Sam Kieth must spend as much time drawing shredded curly-cues of costumes as McFarlane spends on web. Now, if only we could get a stretch-enthusiast drawing the Fantastic Four...

Andy Reynolds
265 Washington Ave. #19
West Haven, CT 06516

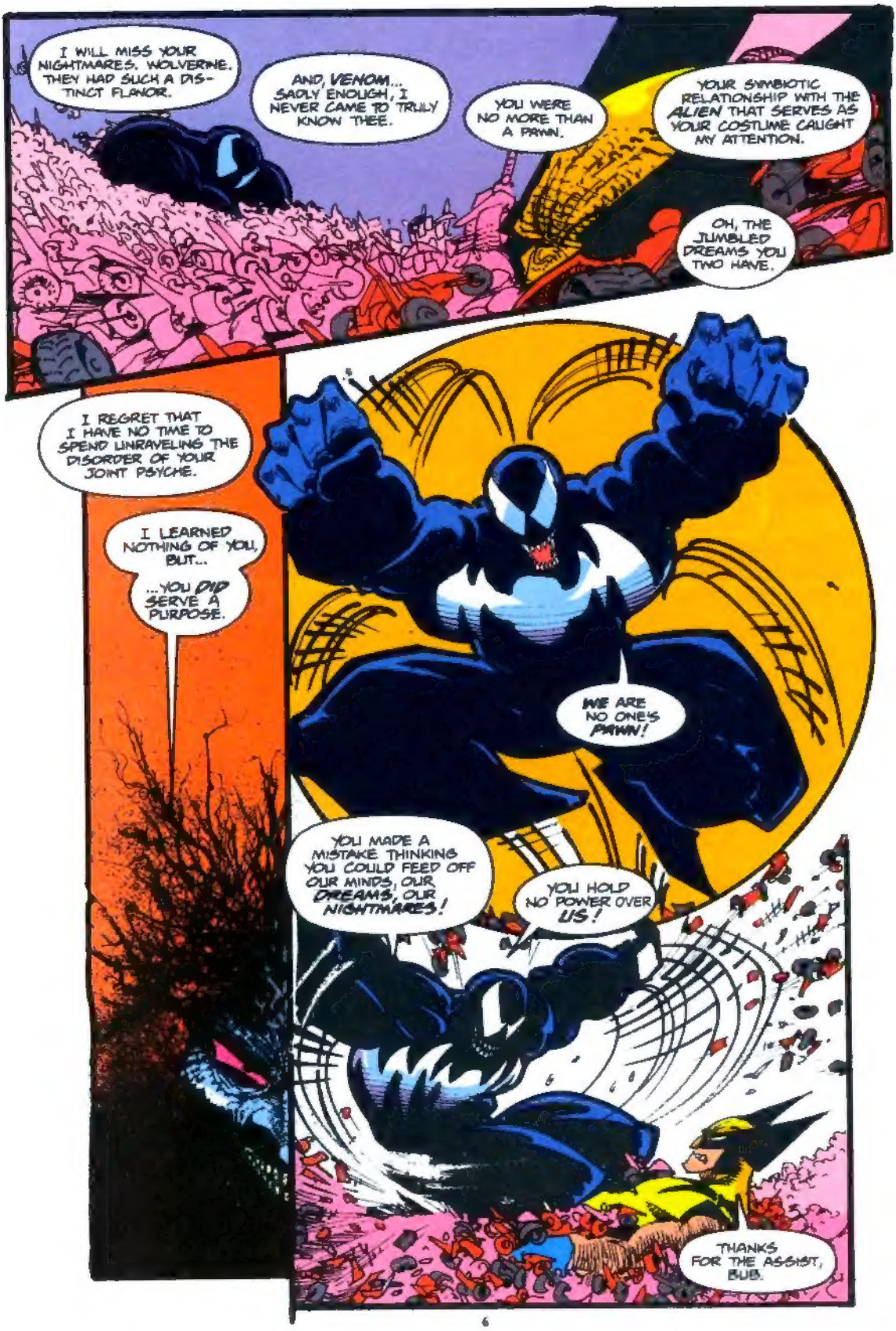
Nightmare's END!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
WOLVERINE!
YOU HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME!
GIVEN IT ALL TO ME!
AND VENOM— YOU HELPED!
CLAWS & WEBS PART: VI
WOLVERINE AND VENOM

AND NOW, AS THIS ASTRAL PLANE UNRAVELS AND CONSUMES YOU BOTH, I HAVE ACCESS TO ONE OF THE GREATEST MINDS OF YOUR DIMENSION...
...PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER--
--A MUTANT TELEPATH WHOSE ABILITIES ARE UNPARALLELED!
AND NOW I HAVE TO THANK YOU, WOLVERINE, FOR ALLOWING ME TO ESTABLISH A PSYCHIC BOND WITH HIM.
HOW?
I KNEW, IF I KEPT ASSAULTING YOU IN YOUR DREAM STATE, THAT YOU WOULD TURN TO THE PROFESSOR FOR AID.
BY DOING SO YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A THREAD BACK TO HIS MIND THROUGH YOURS.

HE WHO HAS SHIELDED HIMSELF FROM MY PSYCHIC ASSAULTS FOR FAR TOO LONG WILL BE MINE TO USE.
AND THROUGH HIM I WILL GAIN ACCESS TO EVERY LIVING BEING IN YOUR DIMENSION AT ONCE!
EVEN HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE UNLIMITED POWERS OF HIS MIND.
FEEDING OFF THE FEAR OF THE WORLD ALL AT ONCE WILL RAISE THE SCOPE OF MY POWERS... MY STRENGTH... TO GODLIKE PROPORTIONS!

I NEEDED YOU TO FEEL AS THOUGH YOU WERE WINNING.
YOUR DEFENSES HAD TO BE LOWERED. PROFESSOR X HAD TO BE MADE TO THINK THAT YOU WERE SAFE IN HIS CARE.
NOW MY OPENING ... MY THREAD... WILL SOON BE FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN HIS PSYCHE.
THE PLANE ON WHICH WE BATTLED WAS CREATED OUT OF PART OF MY OWN ESSENCE.
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO BORE INTO YOUR MIND, INTO YOUR PSYCHE... AND ONCE THEY HAVE--
--I WILL RIDE THAT LINK STRAIGHT TO THE MIND OF PROFESSOR XAVIER!
YOU WILL DISAPPEAR, WOLVERINE!
YOU AND VENOM WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO EXIST ON YOUR PLANE.

BUT WHY ALL THIS?
ONCE YOU HAD ME HERE YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD THE CONNECTION?
WHY VENOM? WHY THE FIGHTING?
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, IT IS ME!
AND AS IT UNRAVELS, ALL THE BITS AND PIECES WILL SWALLOW YOU UP!
WITH YOUR HELP, IT WILL BE MY PLANE!
OH, I STAND CORRECTED!


I WILL MISS YOUR NIGHTMARES, WOLVERINE. THEY HAD SUCH A DISTINCT FLAVOR.
AND, VENOM... SADLY ENOUGH, I NEVER CAME TO TRULY KNOW THEE.
YOU WERE NO MORE THAN A PAWN.
YOUR SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALIEN THAT SERVES AS YOUR COSTUME CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
OH, THE JUMBLED DREAMS YOU TWO HAVE.
I REGRET THAT I HAVE NO TIME TO SPEND UNRAVELING THE DISORDER OF YOUR JOINT PSYCHE.
I LEARNED NOTHING OF YOU, BUT...
...YOU DID SERVE A PURPOSE.
WE ARE NO ONE'S PAWN!
YOU MADE A MISTAKE THINKING YOU COULD FEED OFF OUR MINDS, OUR DREAMS, OUR NIGHTMARES!
YOU HOLD NO POWER OVER US!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, BUB.

AND IF YOU'LL JUST WRAP NIGHTMARE UP IN THAT COSTUME OF YOURS...
...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE GETS OUT OF OUR HEADS!
NOW, PROFESSOR.
PROCEED, LOGAN?
SHWICKT
NO!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MEEEEEE?!
WHAT DID YOU DO? IS HE DEAD?
NAH!
THE PROFESSOR WAS ON TO WHAT NIGHTMARE WAS AFTER FROM THE BEGINNING.
CHARLIE WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN HE COULD CAUSE A PSYCHIC BACKLASH IF WE COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM
I VOLUNTEERED FOR THE JOB
AFTER THE JOLT WE JUST GAVE HIM, HE'S NOT GOING TO BE FOOLING AROUND IN MY MIND EVER AGAIN!
AND HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE OF GETTING AT CHARLIE.
DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU DID TO HIM WILL WORK FOR US, TOO?
CAN'T REALLY SAY.
BE SEEING YOU...
LOGAN, MAY I PERFORM A MIND SCAN TO ENSURE THAT NIGHTMARE CAUSED NO PERMANENT PSYCHIC DAMAGE?
LATER, CHARLIE. I NEED SOME REAL SLEEP.
AND BESIDES, WHO'D KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
THE END.

SPEEDBALL IN
TAPED CONFESSIONS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT - THE LOADING ZONE OF A ZANY FREDDIE'S RETAIL STORE...
THE PERFECT TIME OF NIGHT TO BEGIN A SMUGGLING OPERATION --
-- AND THE PERFECT TIME OF NIGHT TO UNCOVER IT!
"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE NEW YORK PRESS CLUB FOR THIS DISTINGUISHED AWARD
"IT'S THE RESULT OF A LOT OF HARD WORK AND GOOD FORTUNE."

"AND PULITZER PATTY--
"--AS SHE'S BEEN AFFECTIONATELY NICKNAMED BY THE PRESS CLUB--"
--KNOCKS HER PURSE OFF THE LEDGE--?!
OH, !&%@$ ME!
WHAT WOULD SAM DONALDSON DO NOW?
OR STEVE CROFT?
OR MURPHY BROWN?
RUN!
SLAM
WHAZZUP HEAH?
ANYTHING?
NAH, MR. ZUIT-- NOTHIN' UP HERE.
FINE. NOBODY.. BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE EVERY-THING ELSE

AFTERNOON AT SPRINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL IN SPRINGDALE, CONNECTICUT..
BRRRRI INGG!
FREEDOM!

BRAIN DEAD?
AND BURIED.
BUT, YOUNG DRUG DEALER, WE HAVE LEARNED MANY VALUABLE THINGS TODAY.
GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOPPED DOWN A CHERRY TREE AND NEVER TOLD A LIE.

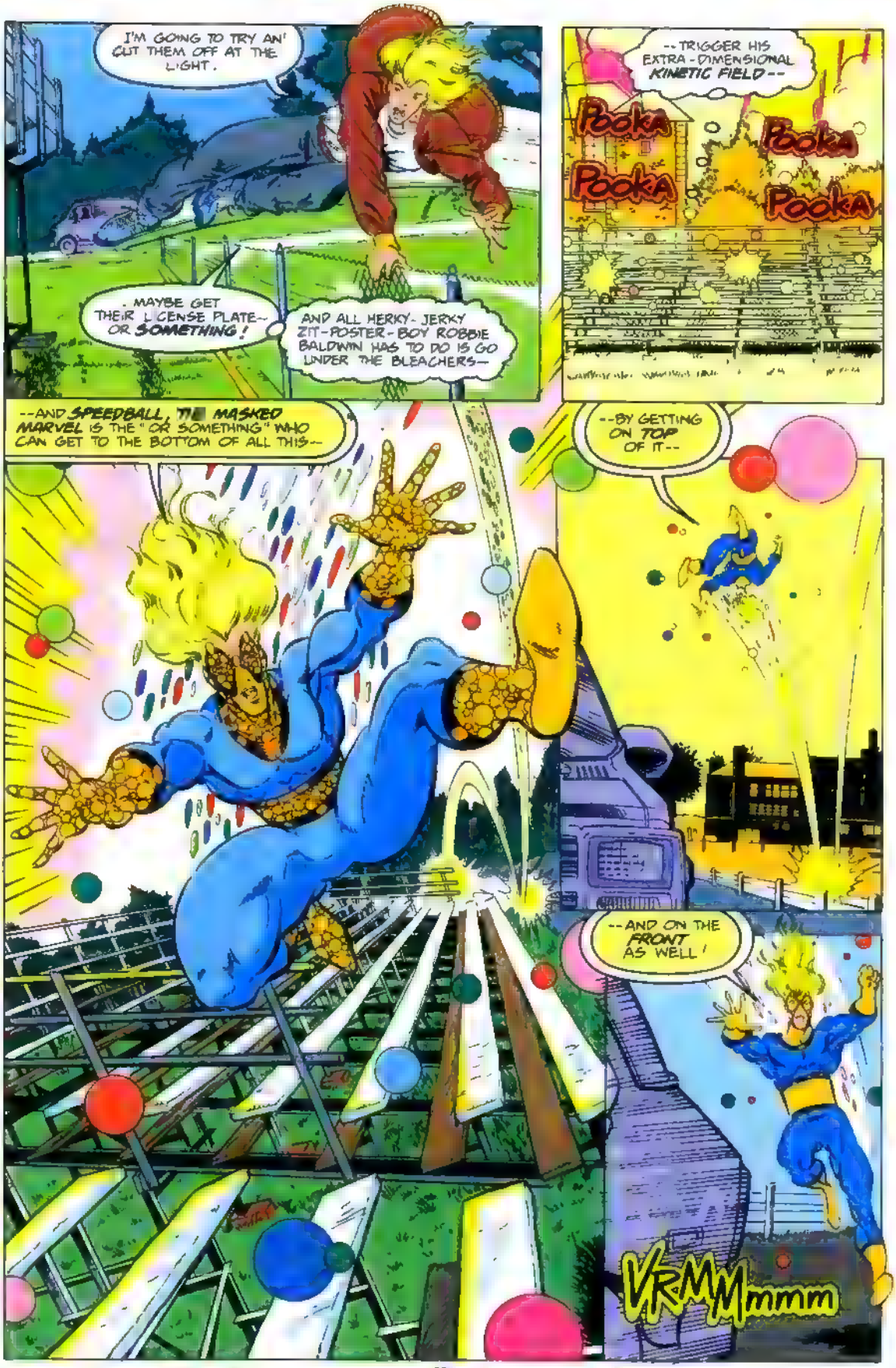
VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR OUR ADULTHOOD.
HEY, BALDWIN, CHECK OUT PATTY...
IS SHE CRUISIN A BUNCH OF OLDER GUYS?
MS. O'DONNELS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TURN OVER THE VIDEOTAPE.
OVER MY DEAD BODY, YOU GREASY SON OF-

STUPID CHICKIE.

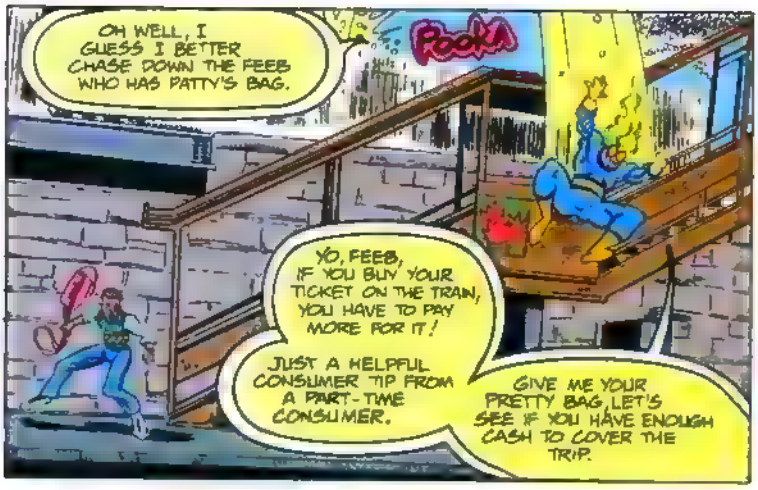
YOW! THEY'RE NOT FOOLING AROUND!

SKREEEE

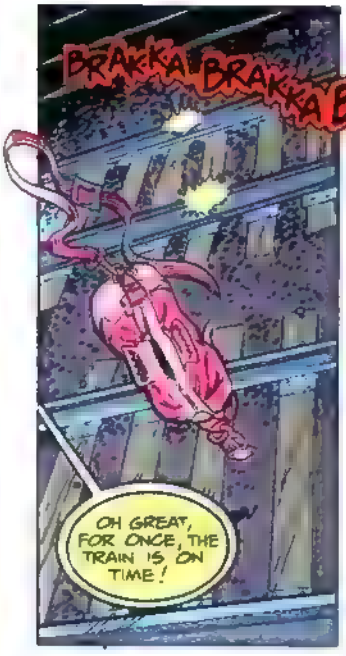
ROBBIE--?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

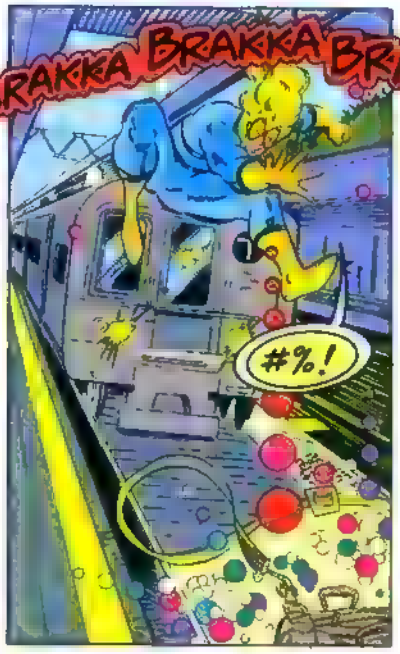

I'M GOING TO TRY AN' CUT THEM OFF AT THE LIGHT.
. MAYBE GET THEIR LICENSE PLATE-- OR SOMETHING!
AND ALL HERKY-JERKY ZIT-POSTER-BOY ROBBIE BALDWIN HAS TO DO IS GO UNDER THE BLEACHERS--
--TRIGGER HIS EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL KINETIC FIELD--
Pooka
Pooka
Pooka
Pooka
--AND SPEEDBALL, THE MASKED MARVEL IS THE " OR SOMETHING" WHO CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS--
--BY GETTING ON TOP OF IT--
--AND ON THE FRONT AS WELL!
VRMMmmm

"VRMM" DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE SQUEAL OF BRAKES TO ME!
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE TRYING TO RUN THE MASKED MARVEL OVER..
THWUMPH
WHICH, SINCE I CAN ABSORB AND REPEL KINETIC MOTION, IS A PRETTY STUPID THING TO DO--
--WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
GET OUTTA HEAH--
--NO ONE SAID WE'D HAVETA FIGHT A SOOPERHERO!
SO YOU WEREN'T PROPERLY BRIEFED BEFORE YOUR ASSIGNMENT?
Y'KNOW, THUGS JUST DON'T PLAN THINGS OUT LIKE THEY USED TO.
RUSH, RUSH, RUSH NOW, NOW, NOW.
I BLAME THE REAGAN-EIGHTIES, MYSELF.
DON'T WORRY, CONCUSSED-DUDE YOUR RUG LOOKS FINE


OH WELL, I GUESS I BETTER CHASE DOWN THE FEEB WHO HAS PATTY'S BAG.
Pooka
YO, FEEB, IF YOU BUY YOUR TICKET ON THE TRAIN, YOU HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR IT!
JUST A HELPFUL CONSUMER TIP FROM A PART-TIME CONSUMER.
GIVE ME YOUR PRETTY BAG, LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO COVER THE TRIP.

NO!


BRAKKA BRAKKA
OH GREAT, FOR ONCE, THE TRAIN IS ON TIME!


BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
#%!

BRAKKA

WHEW. NOW I CAN SEE WHAT THOSE THUGS WANTED WITH PATTY.

HER CAMERA?
FIGURES.
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE HAS OL' PULITZER PATTY GOTTEN INTO NOW?

LATER...
NO, REALLY, BALDWIN -- THEY RAN INTO A TELEPHONE POLE AND MY BAG FELL OUT THE BACK...!
I TOLD YOU ALREADY.
NO-- --REALLY-- WHAT--?
WILL YOU SHUT UP ABOUT HOW I GOT YOUR BAG BACK, ALREADY!
WATCH THE TAPE, YOU GERALDINE RIVERA-WANNA BE
THERE'S NOTHING ON IT THAT'LL HELP--
--YOU THINK I DIDN'T CHECK IT OUT ALREADY?
WHAT KIND OF A REPORTER DO YOU TAKE ME FOR, BALDWIN?
I DON'T TAKE YOU FOR ANY KIND OF REPORTER AT ALL.
NOW- WATCH-THE-TAPE.
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY--
--SEE! TOO DARK TO MAKE OUT ANY FACES!
SIGH.
FREEZE FRAME AND ZOOM IN.
NEW YORK
XJ0 -4 18A
HEY-- THE VAN'S LICENSE PLATE! NEW YORK PLATES!
YUP AND I GOT FRIENDS IN THE CITY WHO CAN TRACK IT DOWN!
AND A SPECIAL FRIEND WHO CAN SHAKE THEM DOWN!

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, LATER THAT NIGHT..
MAIL
THE DOOR?!
THE DOOR?
NO, YOU IDIOTS, SOMEONE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR!
UHM-- UH--WHO IS IT--?
PAPER BOY
YEAH SHOOR SHOOR-- HOLDJER--
--HORSES--?
RAGE--?!
GUESS WHAT TOMORROW'S HEADLINES ARE GOING TO READ?
"VIDEOTAPED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SMUGGLERS CAUGHT IN THE ACT!"
TEENAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT A CUB REPORTING STAR!"
END.

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Dear Terry and Mark,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #118:

This is my first letter to MCP, and I couldn't decide whether to go with the "report card" or "claws" format, so I decided to split it in half. Well, here goes:

Wolverine/Venom: I expected this to be a six-part slugfest, but I've enjoyed it so far. Venom is becoming as popular as Wolverine—maybe he should be getting a rotating slot with Ghost Rider. 4 Claws.

Giant-Man: Yawn... wake me when it's over. I wasn't too thrilled with either the art or the storyline on this story, even though I think Giant-Man could be a great character. 1 Claw.

Ghost Rider/Iron Fist: "Vengeance is Ours" was the end of the best Ghost Rider team-up ever. I'm glad the Legion of Vengeance wasn't destroyed—I want to see them reappear in Ghost Rider's own title. After this story, I'm looking forward to the new IRON FIST series. Rating: A+.

Doom 2099: Fantastic! I liked the Ravage 2099 preview last issue, and this little snip of DOOM 2099 #1 really makes you want to go out and buy the comic. I admit that Pat Broderick is one of my favorite artists, so I thought the art was perfect. Rating: A+.

Covers: Wolverine/Venom: 4 1/2 Claws.

Ghost Rider/Iron Fist: B.

Overall rating for MCP #118: 3 1/2 Claws or a B+.

Kevin Hall
5437-F Bradley Pines Circle
Sandston, VA 23150

So you enjoyed seeing Iron Fist, Kevin? You want more, you say? Well, you asked for it and you're going to get it! We've got two more Iron Fist serials coming up–the first one just a few weeks away in issue #125–before the debut of Iron Fist's own regular monthly book, which will be brought to you by the spectacular creative talents of Jae Lee!

Dear Terry,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #118 was an enjoyable issue, and fully 75% of it was readable. First things first: The Wolverine/Venom story is coming along nicely. I'm really enjoying Sam Kieth's artwork again. This plot has the most potential of all four from this issue. Also, great cover. A+.

The Giant-Man story wrapped up nicely. This whole saga was a showcase for some great art, and the writing by Dwayne McDuffie was consistent with his usual high quality. A-.

Doom 2099: Great! What a preview! Just from the few pages presented in this issue, it looks to be the best of the first four 2099 titles. And what an ending. Who wouldn't pick up the first issue of the regular series after reading this? A+.

Well, no comic is perfect. The Ghost Rider/Iron Fist story has been dragging on for the past few issues, and this one was no different. Well, at least it's over now.

Joe Christiano
35 Coach Dr.
Waterbury, CT 06708

Well, 75% isn't too bad, Joe. Write us again and tell us what you think of the new stuff! That goes for everyone else reading this book, as well. We'd really love to hear what you have to say about all of our storylines. We've gained a bunch of new letter-writers as of late, but we're greedy. We want more!!!

Joe Madureira/Terry Austin — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ CLOAK & DAGGER..... 1

AND LET THERE BE LIGHT
Part 4 of 4
"THE LIGHT WITHIN"

Previously, Grimbat was confronted by Ghost Rider and Cloak and Dagger–as well as by the "ghost" of his past sins! Now, he must decide exactly who should be sacrificed for the good of his people...

Writer — PAULA FOYE
Penciler — ALEXANDER MORRISSEY
Inkers — BRANCH/TUOHY
Letterer —MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — MARK BERNARDO

pg.

SPEEDBALL..... 9

"TAPED CONFESSIONS"

Robbie Baldwin–Speedball, the masked marvel, member of the New Warriors, is faced with constant danger, even in his quiet moments. Like now, for instance, when he must save Pulitzer Patty from her own intrepid ways!

Writer —FABIAN NICIEZA
Penciler — PARIS KAROUNOS
Inker — KEN BRANCH
Letterer — DAVE SHARPE
Colorist — CARLOS LOPEZ

NEXT ISSUE: AN ALL-NEW WOLVERINE STORYLINE BRINGS HIM FACE TO FACE WITH THE MYSTERIOUS LYNX! SHE-HULK IS FRAMED FOR MURDER BY ADRENAZON! A DYING MAN RELIVES HIS GREATEST NIGHTMARES! TYPHOID MARY RETURNS TO CONFRONT GHOST RIDER!

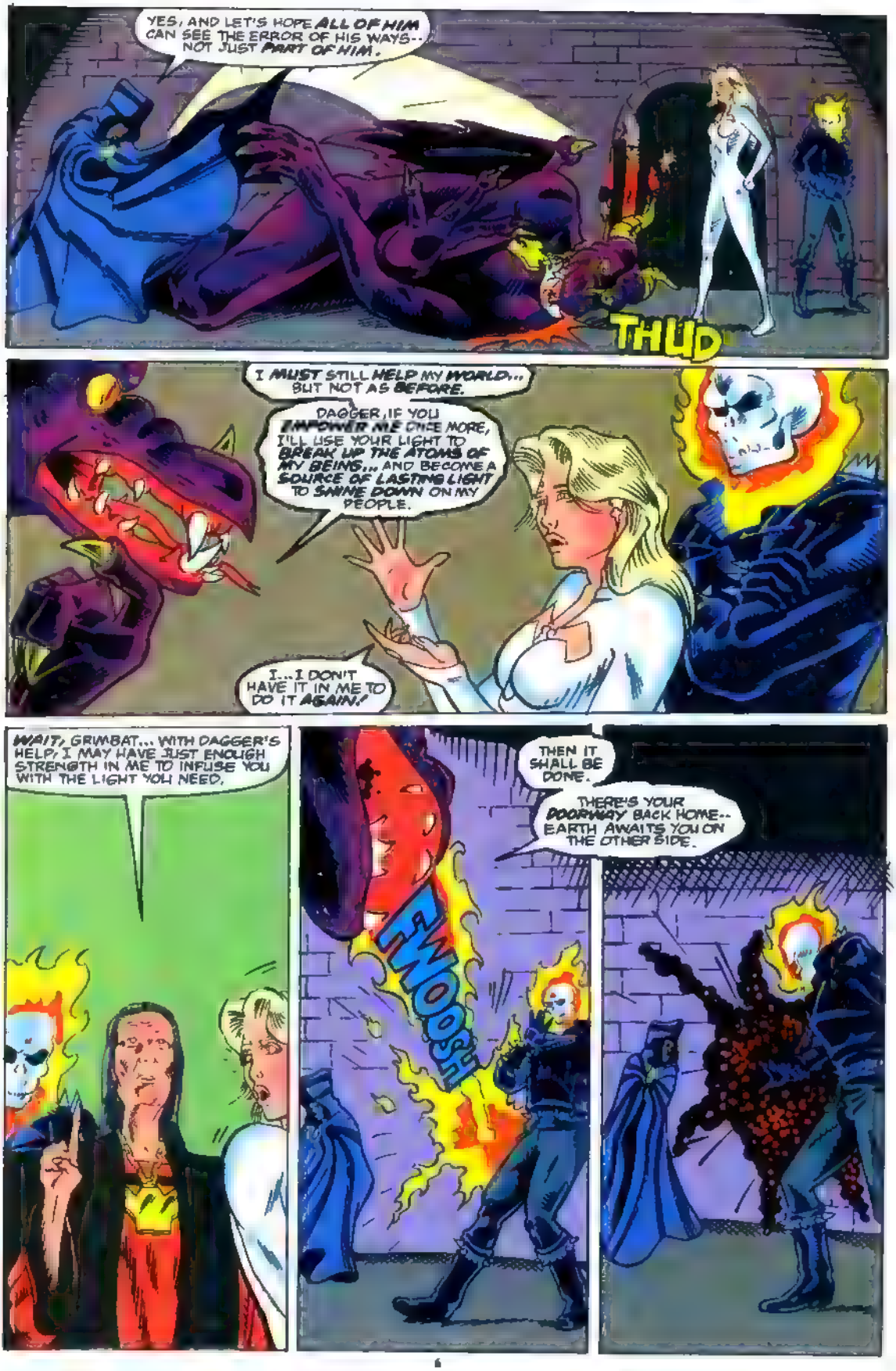
AND LET THERE BE LIGHT...
GRIMBAT IS DOWN--NOW WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.
IT IS NOT OVER YET.
NO, IT HAS BARELY BEGUN!
"THE LIGHT WITHIN" PART IV
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER
AND
CLOAK AND DAGGER

GRRHRK
FWIPP
HISSS
I AM FINALLY CAPABLE OF BECOMING ANYTHING I DESIRE!

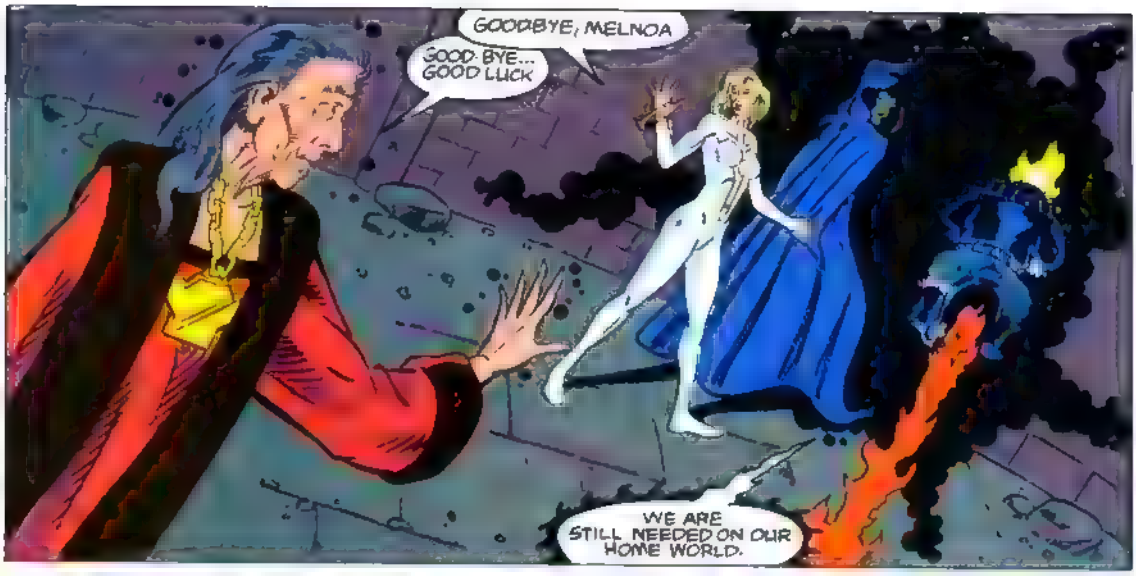
UNNGH!
THWAP
THANK YOU, MY LOVELY DAGGER.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO CLOAK?
YOUR IMPRESSIVE BLAST OF PURE ..IGHT HAS SERVED TO MAKE ME MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!
YOUR BULLYING TACTICS DON'T WASH WITH ME, GRIMBAT!
AWAY FROM HER, MONSTER.
YOU DARE TO PROVOKE ME, GHOST RIDER?!
HISSS
UHHN!

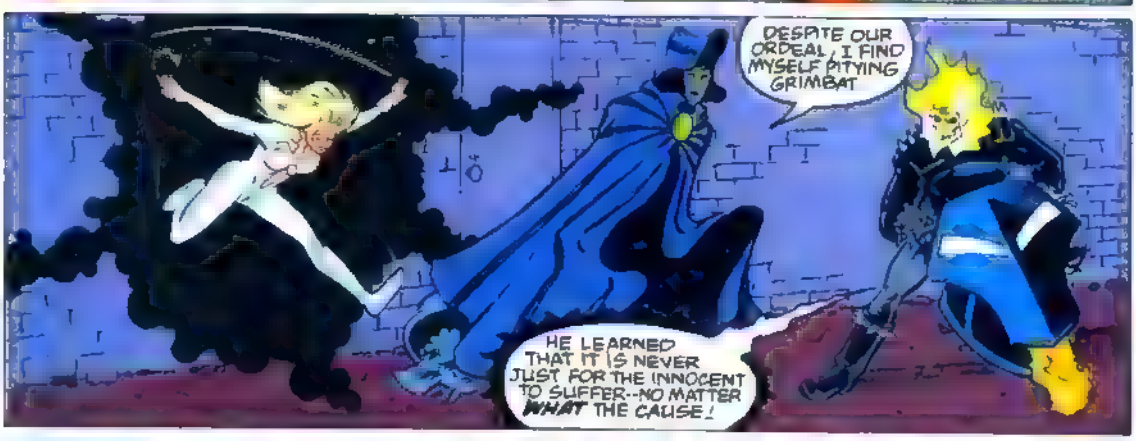
I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED SUCH ENERGY BEFORE!
AIEEEE!
FEEL THE WRATH OF MY PENANCE STARE, BEAST!
THIS EVIL MUST CEASE!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN TO HELP MY PEOPLE--AND MY WORLD
YOU ONLY DELAY THE INEVITABLE!
LET ME... LET US GO, GRIMBAT! FACE THE TRUTH!

YES, GRIMBAT, FACE THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS. WHY DO YOU REFUSE TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE-- TO ME... AND SO MANY OTHERS?
YOU CONVINCED ME TO LET MY LIGHT POWER BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE, DRAINING ME OF ALL I HAD! NOW YOU WANT TO DO THE SAME TO HER!
MELINOA, IT CAN'T BE YOU. YOU'RE DEAD!
NO. I'VE BEEN HIDING... ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN SOME OF THE POWER I ONCE HAD.
I HAVE HIM, DAGGER.
YOUR CLOAK WILL NEVER CONSUME ME!
TOO MUCH... CAN... JUST BARELY... ABSORB HIM!
YOU DID IT!


YES, AND LET'S HOPE ALL OF HIM CAN SEE THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS-- NOT JUST PART OF HIM.
THUD
I MUST STILL HELP MY WORLD... BUT NOT AS BEFORE.
DAGGER, IF YOU EMPOWER ME ONCE MORE, I'LL USE YOUR LIGHT TO BREAK UP THE ATOMS OF MY BEING... AND BECOME A SOURCE OF LASTING LIGHT TO SHINE DOWN ON MY PEOPLE.
I... I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO DO IT AGAIN!
WAIT, GRIMBAT... WITH DAGGER'S HELP, I MAY HAVE JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH IN ME TO INFUSE YOU WITH THE LIGHT YOU NEED.
THEN IT SHALL BE DONE.
THERE'S YOUR DOORWAY BACK HOME-- EARTH AWAITS YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.
WOOSH

READY OR NOT!
GOODBYE, MY SAVIORS...
I THINK IT'S WORKING!
ZZZZM
BADOOM
OHHHHH!
THANK YOU. PLEASE KEEP THIS TO REMEMBER US BY--AS WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN TO US.


GOODBYE, MELNOA
GOOD-BYE... GOOD LUCK
WE ARE STILL NEEDED ON OUR HOME WORLD.


DESPITE OUR ORDEAL, I FIND MYSELF PITYING GRIMBAT
HE LEARNED THAT IT IS NEVER JUST FOR THE INNOCENT TO SUFFER--NO MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE!

AT LAST, GRIMBAT, YOUR PERSONAL SACRIFICE RESTORES THE LIFE OF YOUR PLANET...

I WON'T EVER FORGET...
THE END.

FOR YEARS NOW, STRANGE FORMATIONS-- COMMONLY KNOWN AS CROP CIRCLES -- HAVE BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARING IN WHEAT FIELDS ALL OVER THE LUSH FARM-LANDS OF SOUTHERN BRITAIN.
SO ON A BRIGHT COLD MORNING IN WILTSHIRE ENGLAND, A GROUP OF EXPLORERS TAKES THE OPPURTUNITY TO EXAMINE NEW MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS PHENOMENON FIRSTHAND.
NO ONE HAS EVER EXPLAINED WHO IS CREATING THESE CROP CIRCLES OR WHY.
INDIVIDUALLY THEY ARE GRACE, UNION JACK, ALBION AND CROWN, BUT TOGETHER THEY ARE THE--
KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON
IN
THE SEEDS OF WINTER
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, UNION JACK! THESE CIRCLES WEREN'T FORMED BY ALIENS! A BUNCH OF SCHOOL BOYS CREATED THESE THINGS!
ONE FOOL FARMER DISCOVERS STRANGE CIRCLES IN HIS FIELDS AND WE HAVE TO COME OUT AT THE CRACK OF DAWN TO INVESTIGATE.
OH, COME ON! NO KID COULD'VE DONE THIS! LOOK AT IT! IT CAN'T BE FROM THIS WORLD!
I HAVE TO AGREE WITH JACK, PETER. THIS CIRCLE... THE WHEAT... THE VERY GROUND... RADIATES WITH A KIND OF ENERGY ALMOST TOO FAINT TO DETECT. THIS WAS NOT DONE FOR KICKS.

I FEEL THE ENERGY TOO, CROWN. IT'S FAMILIAR, BUT I CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT.
YOU BOTH SOUND LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO THINK FAIRIES MAKE THEM!
PETER, THE WHEAT IS NEVER CUT OR BURNED, BUT BENT AND SHAPED INTO AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT CIRCLE.
AND LONG AFTER THEY APPEAR, PLANT LIFE WILL NOT GROW WHERE THE CIRCLES MARKED THE GROUND. THERE SIMPLY CAN'T BE AN EARTHLY EXPLANATION!
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THESE CIRCLES ARE AN ATTEMPT BY THE FRENCH AND GERMANS TO MAKE OUR WHEAT CROP APPEAR SUSPECT IT'S MAD COW DISEASE ALL OVER AGAIN, ALL PART OF A PLOT TO CRIPPLE BRITISH AGRICULTURE
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES OF UFO'S, FAIRIES, DRUNKEN SCHOOL BOYS AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSPIRACY THEORIES...
...IS IT POSSIBLE WE CAN CONTINUE THIS ENLIGHTENED DEBATE INSIDE WHERE IT ISN'T SO COLD?
COLD, GRACE? BUT YOUR ARMOR SHOULD PROTECT YOU
DO WHAT YOU WANT, I'VE STILL GOT HARVESTING TO GET BACK TO.
AS THE PENDRAGONS WATCH THE FARMER DISAPPEAR INTO THE RAPIDLY GATHERING MIST A SINISTER SNEER BEGINS TO TAKE FORM BEHIND THEM.
UH, I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN THE SUDDEN CHILL--

IT'S A TRAP!
QUICKLY! SPREAD OUT!
THIS IS SOME KIND OF MYSTIC F.E.L.D.! IT'S HOLDING US IN THIS CROP CIRCLE!
HA HA HA HA! ALLOW ME TO 'INTRO-DUCE MYSELF, ANTS OF AVALON! I AM SHADOW WING -- LORD OF THE BANE!
I KNEW THAT ENERGY FELT FAMILIAR. THE BANE IS HERE.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, GRACE. AS LONG AS OUR OLD FOES TRY TO BRING DEATH AND DECAY TO THE WORLD, IT WILL ALWAYS BE UP TO US TO STOP THEM.
YOU SEE, YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE DEATH OF THIS LAND YOU HOLD SO DEAR. FOR YOU ARE NOW CAUGHT IN THE SPELL OF THE SEEDS OF WINTER, AND THE LAST INGREDIENT THE SPELL DEMANDS IS THE BLOOD OF PENDRAGONS.
YOU ARE ABOUT TO DIE!

THAT WOULD BE MY CUE TO SAY GOODBYE TO PETER HUNTER...
AND HELLO TO ALBION!
AH, THE SELF-STYLED MERLIN OF THE GROUP!
YOU WILL FIND, BANE-LORD, THAT I POSSESS EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THAT I CLAIM--
-- AND MORE!
B'WA'ZACK
POWER YOU HAVE LITTLE PENDRAGON...
FWA SHWEE
WHAT YOU LACK IS THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO WIELD IT...
AARRGGHH!
KA
JUM
WITHOUT HURTING YOURSELF
GRACE?

GRACE! WHAT A PLEASURE!
KA WACK
THE TURNCOAT FORMER LEADER OF THE BANE, NOW A PATHETIC PENDRAGON. BE KIND, AND I MAY LET YOU BACK IN THE FOLD. AS MY PERSONAL SLAVE!
YOU SPEAK OF A CHAPTER IN MY LIFE THAT IS OVER, BANE SCUM!
I WILL HEAR NO MORE OF IT!
AND HOW DID YOU HOPE TO BEAT ME, LITTLE GRACE, WHEN YOU HAVE ALL THE BLOODTHIRSTINESS OF MORGAN LE FEY BURNING IN YOUR SOUL...
...YET YOU HAVE YET TO USE ANY OF HER CUNNING?
NEXT?
YOU WILL HEAR NO MORE OF ANYTHING, TRAITOR!
OOFFF!

NO SWORDS, NO FANCY POWERS -- JUST ME TAKIN' YOU OUT FAST AND CLEAN WITH MY BARE HANDS!
CHUOM
AH, THE REDOUBTABLE UNION JACK... ALWAYS THE GALLANT LANCELOT.
BUT YOUR STRENGTH ALONE WILL NOT DEFEAT ME, LANCELOT...
...YOU HAVE FAILED!
BLAM
THIS CHARADE ENDS, CROWN.
NOW.
YOU'VE BEATEN ALL OF MY COMRADES, BANE-LORD!
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY ALL HAVE GREATER POWERS AND YEARS MORE EXPERIENCE THAN I'VE GOT...
...I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT YOU.
I DEFEND THIS LAND, AND I WILL NOT FALL TO THE LIKES OF YOU!
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!
OH, YOU WILL FALL, ARTHUR!
YOU WILL FALL NOW!
YOU WILL FALL DEAD!
YOU'LL NOT BE GETTING OUR BLOOD TODAY, BANE. NOT EVER.

AND IF I'M RIGHT, I CAN USE YOUR STAFF TO BREAK THIS SPELL.
BZERK
YOU HAVE SHATTERED THE CIRCLE! MY MAGIC HAS BEEN UNDONE! CURSE YOU YET AGAIN, ARTHUR!
THIS WILL COST YOU EVEN MORE DEARLY WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!
IT WAS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE HERE TO DO, PENDRAGONS. TO SAVE THIS LAND, THIS PLANET, FROM THE CARELESS AND THE EVIL.
THE STAFF!
IT'S TURNED BACK TO WHEAT!
WOULD ANYONE MIND TELLING ME WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?
AND THE WHEAT IS CRUMBLING TO DUST.
I JUST HOPE THIS IS THE LAST WE HEAR OF THE SEEDS OF WINTER.

UNFORTUNATE.
MOST...
... UNFORTUNATE.
I WAS BUT MOMENTS AWAY FROM COMPLETING THE SPELL OF THE SEEDS OF WINTER. ONE STEP AWAY FROM ENSURING THAT THE DEATH OF THE SOIL BENEATH THE CROP CIRCLES WOULD HAVE SPREAD TO FOREVER POISON THE FERTILE FIELDS OF BRITAIN.
ALL THOSE YEARS OF SLOWLY CRAFTING THE SPELL, OF CAREFULLY FORMING THOSE CIRCLES, RUINED IN JUST ONE DAY. MY MASTERS WILL BE MOST DISPLEASED WHEN THEY LEARN THAT THE PENDRAGONS HAVE INTERFERED WITH OUR PLANS.
VETRASEED
CORPORATION
BUT ALL IS NOT LOST. I HAVE UNLIMITED RESOURCES FROM MY UNWITTING INDUSTRIAL BACKERS, AND AS HEAD OF THIS CORPORATION, I HAVE THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES AND BILLIONS IN HOLDINGS ALL OVER THE GLOBE.
"I HAVE AN ENTIRE WORLD IN WHICH TO PLANT MY SEEDS."
THE END.